

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 15, 17 – 22, and 25, 26, 29-32, and 35 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1, 4 – 5, 15, 20, 22, 29, 30, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. '942 B2) in view of Fukuyoshi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. '562 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that Tanaka teaches two metal films with different crystal grain sizes and that it may be implied that Tanaka teaches a lead for supplying signals from a driver IC to pixels. Further, the Examiner alleges that Fukuyoshi teaches a reflective film that contains silver and, therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Tanaka with those of Fukuyoshi to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants note, however, that Tanaka was filed on January 23, 2001, and published on August 23, 2001. Notwithstanding, the present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Applications 2000-154697 and 2000-154699, filed May 25, 2000; and to Japanese Patent Application 2001-103496, filed April 2, 2001. Certified copies of these priority applications were filed with the present application on May 24, 2001. In order to perfect the claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, Applicant includes herewith English translations of JP 2000-154697, JP 2000-154699, and JP 2001-103496. Applicant respectfully asserts that the English translations of these documents satisfy the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Inasmuch as the

Applicants have now established an invention date prior to the effective date of Tanaka, that reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Furthermore, as the reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it cannot be considered a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of Tanaka and Fukuyoshi. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 6-14 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. '942 B2) and Fukuyoshi (U.S. '562 B1) and further in view of Nemoto (U.S. '344 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, Applicants assert that Tanaka does not qualify under 35 U.S.C. § 102. As such, the alleged combination of Tanaka, Fukuyoshi, and Nemoto is improper. Accordingly, the claimed invention would not have been obvious in view of Tanaka, Fukuyoshi, and Nemoto.

3. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein (USPN 6,264,336) in view of Satake (USPN 3,426,787). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 is dependent on claim 1, addressed above. Claim 18 is not obvious for at least the same reasons.

4. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 25 is dependent on claim 22, addressed above. Claim 25 is not obvious for at least the same reasons.

5. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein in view of Satake. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 is dependent on claim 25, which is dependent on claim 22, addressed above. Claim 26 is not obvious for at least the same reasons.

6. Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka and Fukuyoshi and further in view of Matsute (USPN 6,172,726). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 is dependent on claim 1. As stated above, the Tanaka reference does not qualify under 35 U.S.C. § 102. As such, claim 31 would not have been obvious in view of Tanaka, Fukuyoshi, and Matsute.

7. Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka and Fukuyoshi and further in view of Matsute and Epstein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 is also dependent on claim 1. Claim 32 is not obvious for at least the same reasons.

8. Claims 27, 33, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsute et al (U.S. '726 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 27, 33, and 36 are cancelled. This rejection, therefore, is moot.

9. Claims 28, 34, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsute (U.S. '726 B1) in view of Epstein et al (U.S. '336 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 28, 34, and 37 are cancelled. This rejection, therefore, is moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

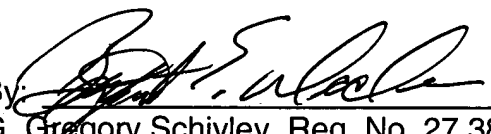
The Examiner states that claims 3 and 19 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the allowance of claims 13 and 19.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 5, 2004

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